

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00538 281443Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 OMB-01 /077 W

-----281838 073504 /53

R 281245Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6013

INFO AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ME, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. FOLLOWING UP ON NORTH AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN AMMAN, I CALLED 27 FEB ON BENHABYLES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES.
2. AFTER REVIEWING WITH HIM ESSENTIALS OF SECRETARY'S DAMASCUS PRESS CONFERENCE AND COM DISCUSSIONS, IF ASKED HIM FOR ALGERIAN VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS OF WITHDRAWAL, PEACE AND PALESTINIAN QUESTION.
3. BENHABYLES BRUSHED ASIDE THESE ISSUES TO FOCUS ON PROCEDUAL QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. HE AFFIRMED THAT FOR ALGIERANS, KEY TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS RECOGNITION OF PLO AS FULL PARTICIPANT AT GENEVA. ONCE THIS RECOGNITION ACCORDED, HE SAID, SOLUTIONS TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00538 281443Z

4. HE ARGUED THAT VERY CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES MEETING WITH ISRAELIS WILL CONSTITUTE DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI STATE AND THAT SAME RECOGNITION MUST BE ACCORDED PLO. HE SAID THAT US SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT PLO LEADERSHIP IS NOW MORE MODERATE THAN EVER BEFORE AND IS ALREADY MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS; HE URGED THAT US TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF CURRENT MODERATE DOMINANCE OF PLO TO MOVE AHEAD. IF PLO ATTENDS GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH STATUS LESS THAN FULL PARTICIPANT, HE PREDICTED RESULT WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE REJECTIONIST AND TERRORIST ELEMENTS WITHIN PLO WHICH WILL REJECT MODERATE LEADERSHIP.

5. BENHABYLES SAID THAT IF PLO ACCEPTS TO GO TO GENEVA WITH LESS THAN FULL STATUS, ALGERIA WILL NOT OBJECT. ALGERIA, HE SAID, WILL ACCEPT WHATEVER PALESTINIANS ACCEPT, AND HAS NEVER SOUGHT TO HINDER NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH A PROCEDURE, HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED, WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTION COMING OUT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND, HE REPEATED, WOULD INEVITABLY ENCOURAGE REJECTIONIST AND TERRORIST FACTIONS WITHIN PLO. HE SAID ALGERIANS HAD LEARNED FROM THEIR REVOLUTION THAT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT CANNOT MAKE CONCESSIONS BEFORE IT ACHIEVES STATUS AND IS AT NEGOTIATING TABLE; IF IT DOES MAKE CONCESSIONS BEFOREHAND IT WILL DESTROY ITSELF. OCE RECOGNITION IS ACHIEVED, HE SAID, CONCESSIONS CAN THEN BE MADE.

6 HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED SECRETARY HAD FOUND SOME CONFUSION AND LACK OF UNANIMITY AMONG ARABS. THE PLO ITSELF IS DIVIDED, INTER-ARAB QUARRELS ARE AT A NEW HIGH, AND, HE SAID, OTHER DISTRACTION, "SUCH AS SAHARA FOR ALGERIA," ARE OCCUPYING ATTENTION. HE THEN RECITED ALGERIAN TALE OF CUSTOMER GOING INTO STORE BUT REFUSING TO BUY AN APPLIANCE UNTIL HE IS SHOWN IT WORKS: "SHOW ME IT WORKS AND I WILL BUY IT." CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00538 281443Z

IN THIS CASE, HE SAID, ARAB COUNTRIES ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT WILL WORK AND ALSO WAITING TO SEE IF PLO, AS KEY CUSTOMER, WILL BUY WHAT US COMES UP WITH.

7. IN CONCLUSION BENHABYLES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED THIS YEAR SO THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE AT CIEC ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, WHICH HE THEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

LYNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER00538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-1132
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977025/aaaaaduz.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5de0f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3339726
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIAN VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, XF, AG, PLO, (BENHABYLES, ABDELMALEK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5de0f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009